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Letter dated 23 October 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 19 October 2001, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

01-59943 (E) 251001

Annex

Letter dated 19 October 2001 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088, I attach the monthly report on SFOR operations (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) George **Robertson**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the Security Council on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Over the reporting period (1 to 30 September 2001), there were just over 19,500 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Allies and from 15 non-NATO countries.

2. During the period under review, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained relatively calm. SFOR continued its mission to ensure a safe and secure environment throughout the area.

3. Some violent incidents did take place, including the destruction of the car belonging to the Serb mayor Serbsko Orasje, which was blown up by a bomb in what is believed to have been a politically motivated act; a grenade attack which damaged a Bosniac bakery in Doboj; and a grenade explosion under a car in Gacko which injured two people.

4. SFOR monitored the public school integration process involving Bosniac and Bosnian Serb students in the Brcko district. School started for 7,000 primary and 3,200 high school pupils on 3 September. No incidents were reported.

5. SFOR troops continued to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations using ground and air patrols. Other operations included providing area security, monitoring the Entity Armed Forces, conducting weapons storage site inspections, providing support to the international organizations in theatre, and collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest.

6. SFOR also prepared contingency plans in case of any terrorist incidents following the attacks on the United States on 11 September and, during a two-day period from 28 to 30 September, increased search operations in the area of Visoko. As a result, some individuals were detained and weapons confiscated.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

7. The situation in theatre remained relatively calm throughout the reporting period, with the entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement.

8. Inspection and verification of weapons storage sites continues to be one of SFOR's priority tasks. The Bosnian Croat component of the Federation Army has now resumed its normal activities. Responsibility for the weapons storage sites guarded by SFOR since spring 2001 was handed back to the Bosnian Croat component of the Federation Army during this reporting period. On 3 September, the Multi-National Division (South) began relocating weapons and ammunition from Republika Srpska and Bosnian Serb Army weapons storage sites which did not conform to safety measures for storing ammunition and explosives.

9. During the period under review, SFOR troops conducted 77 weapons storage site inspections: 19 Bosnian Serb; 26 Bosniac; 13 Bosnian Croat; and 19 Federation. On 12 September, SFOR discovered a bunker belonging to the Bosnian Serbs near Han Pijesak in Multi-National Division (North) and confiscated a small amount of ammunition.

10. SFOR troops monitored 250 training and movement activities during the reporting period: 68 Bosnian Serb, 114 Bosniac, 10 Bosnian Croat and 58 Federation.

11. Over the period, a total of 706 mine-clearing activities were monitored: 231 Bosnian Serb, 252 Bosniac, 95 Bosnian Croat, 123 Federation and 5 Federation Army Department.

Cooperation with international organizations

12. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), the International Police Task Force, the Office of the High Representative, the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

13. SFOR continues to support the efforts of the Office of the High Representative to establish common institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to protect the Administrator of the Office during her auditing activities at the Herzegovacka Banka in Mostar. With regard to assistance to the Office in opening up airfields, Bosnia and Herzegovina resumed control of lower and middle airspace on 14 September, and was granted authority by SFOR to negotiate the use of higher airspace with the international organizations concerned.

14. SFOR supported local police and the International Police Task Force during religious ceremonies in several locations, including Bugojno on 14 September involving 10,000 people, Otaka (Sarajevo) on 22 September involving 4,000 people, and Jelic on 29 September involving 1,000 people, as well as during a reburial ceremony in Visegrad on 29 September attended by more than 400 people. All these events took place peacefully.

15. SFOR provided a safe and secure environment in support of the work of the Tribunal in areas near Ozren-Podcjelovo, Miljkovac and Cancari during exhumations of mass graves, and in Sarajevo, Foca, Prijedor, Kozarac, Gorazde and Jakarina Kosa, where other remains were discovered.

Displaced persons and refugees

16. SFOR continues to support UNHCR as displaced persons return to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and is reviewing UNHCR plans for the winter. In the first half of the year, 46,802 people returned to their homes, an increase of 80 per cent compared to the same period in 2000. Progress in the return of displaced persons to the Republika Srpska is, however, slower in comparison. On 3 September, several hundred persons demonstrated in front of the UNHCR office in Sarajevo because their homes had still not been reconstructed. There are daily reports of low-level intimidation of Bosniacs who have returned to their homes in the Sepak area in northern Bosnia and Herzegovina, and incidents included damage to property and hand-grenade attacks.

Outlook

17. The overall security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains under control. SFOR is continuing to monitor the situation in Kotorsko near Doboj, where construction on 178 disputed land plots allocated to Bosnian Serbs was ordered to cease by the local municipality following a court ruling.

18. The Government is in the process of putting in place a series of measures to counter any terrorist threat.